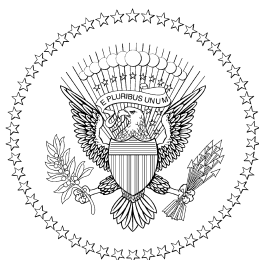


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, January 15, 2007
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Pages 15–40

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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on January 12, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, January 12, 2007

**Statement on United States Military
Personnel Recommendations
From Secretary of Defense
Robert M. Gates**

January 5, 2007

I am pleased to accept the recommendations of Secretary Gates for several key positions in our Nation's Armed Forces. These leaders are accomplished military professionals whose experience, skill, and dedication will enable them to successfully lead our troops as they protect our country.

General George Casey has been a strong and effective commander of the Multi-National Force in Iraq. I have come to depend on his wise counsel and solid judgment in our efforts to protect the American people in the war on terror. I look forward to working with him in his new role as Chief of Staff of the United States Army. General Casey will succeed General Peter Schoomaker, who has done an outstanding job in helping transform the U.S. Army to confront the challenges of the 21st century. I wish General Schoomaker all the best as he retires from active duty after a distinguished career.

Lieutenant General Dave Petraeus will succeed General Casey. General Petraeus is a soldier of vision and determination. His service in Iraq has equipped him with expertise in irregular warfare and stability operations and an understanding of the enemy we face. I am confident that General Petraeus has the right experience, leadership skills, and judgment to be an outstanding commander of MNF-I.

Admiral William J. Fallon, currently the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, has earned a reputation as one of our country's foremost military strategists. His experience and leadership will be critical to helping our country achieve victory over the radicals and extremists who threaten freedom. He will be an excellent commander of U.S. Central Command.

Admiral Fallon will succeed General John Abizaid, who has overseen some of our military's most extraordinary efforts to spread freedom and democracy. He has earned the respect and admiration of a grateful nation, and his service is a model for those who wear our country's uniform. As he retires, I express my deep appreciation for all he has done for America.

NOTE: In his statement, the President referred to Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Memorandum on Assignment of
Functions Regarding the Citizens
Health Care Working Group**

January 5, 2007

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Health
and Human Services*

Subject: Assignment of Functions Regarding
the Citizens Health Care Working Group

By virtue of authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, the functions of the President under section 1014(o)(1) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) are assigned to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
11:11 a.m., January 8, 2007]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on January 9. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

January 6, 2007

Good morning. Earlier this week, the newly elected Members of the House and the Senate took their oaths of office and became part of the 110th Congress. I congratulate them all, and I look forward to working with them over the next 2 years.

Since the November elections, I've had a number of productive meetings with the new leaders in Congress, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. I was encouraged by our discussions, and I'm confident that we can find common ground in our efforts to serve our fellow citizens and to move our country forward.

One area where we are already finding agreement is in our effort to spend the people's money wisely. This week, I announced that I will submit a 5-year budget proposal that will balance the Federal budget by 2012, while making the tax relief we passed permanent. Some Democrats have indicated that balancing the budget is a top priority for them as well. By holding the line on spending and continuing our pro-growth policies, we can balance the budget and address the most urgent needs of our Nation, which are winning the war on terror and maintaining a strong national defense, keeping our economy growing and creating jobs.

We also see bipartisan agreement emerging on reforming the earmark process in Congress. Earmarks are spending provisions that are often slipped into bills at the last minute, so they rarely get debated or discussed. Many earmarks divert precious funds away from vital priorities like national defense and education to wasteful porkbarrel projects. I appreciate Democratic leaders who have pledged to maintain our current levels of spending without additional earmarks this year. And I support the temporary moratorium on all new earmarks announced by the Democrats.

This is a good start, but I believe we can do more. This week, I proposed my own earmark reforms, which would make the earmark process more transparent, end the

practice of concealing earmarks in so-called report language never included in legislation, and cut the number and costs of earmarks by at least half. These commonsense reforms will help prevent billions of taxpayers' dollars from being spent on unnecessary earmarks.

Another area where Democrats and Republicans can work together is in the effort to improve our schools. We have done so before. In my first year as President, Democrats and Republicans saw that our schools were failing too many students, so we worked together to pass the No Child Left Behind Act. This good law gave our schools new resources, and in return, we asked them to show results. By setting high standards and measuring student progress, we're holding schools accountable for teaching every student to read, write, add, and subtract.

Since No Child Left Behind was passed, we have seen major improvements in student achievement all across America. In reading, 9-year-olds have made larger gains in the last 5 years of the test than in the previous 28 years. In math, 9-year-olds and 13-year-olds earned the highest scores in the history of the test. And in both reading and math, African American and Hispanic students are scoring higher and starting to close the achievement gap.

This year, the No Child Left Behind Act is up for reauthorization. I'm confident that both parties can work together to help our Nation's students. By reauthorizing this important legislation, we can help make our schools a gateway to opportunity for every child.

With this new Congress and new year, Democrats and Republicans will have many opportunities to serve the American people. We must rise to meet those opportunities and build a stronger and more compassionate nation for generations to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on January 5 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
President Jose Manuel Durao
Barroso of the European
Commission**

January 8, 2007

President Bush. I'm very pleased to welcome back my friend Jose Barroso. Thank you. We just had a great discussion about the importance between—of relations between the United States and the European Union. Jose has got a really important job, and I think he's doing it really well.

Our discussion was frank; it was open. We talked about the importance of the transatlantic relationship and how we can work to improve it. We talked about the importance for Europe and the United States to resolve any differences we have when it comes to the Doha round for trade, so that we can promote international trade. We both recognize that the best way to help impoverished nations is to complete this Doha round and to encourage the spread of wealth and opportunity through open and reasonable and fair trade.

Jose and I talked about the Middle East. There's no question that the Israeli-Palestinian issue is on a lot of people's minds. We are dedicated to a two-state solution, two democracies living side by side in peace. And we talked about ways that we need to work together to see if we can't bring that vision to fruition.

We're going to talk about Darfur here at lunch. I know that Jose is as committed as I am to helping solve what I've called a genocide. It is outrageous that people are being treated the way they are, and I'm confident Europe and the United States can work with other friends and allies around the world to help solve that difficult problem.

We talked about Iran. We talked about Syria. We talked about Iraq. We talked about a lot of issues. We also talked about the importance of energy independence and, at the same time, being wise stewards of the environment. We are very hopeful that the use of technologies and good policy will help us diversify our energy supplies and be able to assure future generations that the environment of the world will be better off.

And so I thought it was a constructive dialog. Glad to have you back.

President Durao Barroso. Thank you very much, George. It was, indeed, a pleasure to meet again, President Bush. We have now these very regular meetings, and it's always a great occasion to exchange views on such important subjects.

In fact, we have considered bilateral and global issues. On bilateral, I underlined the importance we give to further—to make go further, go faster, to go deeper in our economic transatlantic partnership. This is the most important economic relation in the world, the relation between the United States of America and the European Union. And we believe we can achieve more if we look at it in a comprehensive manner. And I hope that now there will be some concrete work so that in our regular institutional summit, between the European Union and the United States, we can achieve some more complete results.

Of course, the most crucial factor is the succession—successful negotiations for Doha. Doha is not just about trade; it's also about development; it's about having a multilateral approach to trade. There is now the defining moment. We are really at defining moment, and we had a very good exchange, and we gave instructions to all negotiators to come with a solution as soon as possible. And of course it is important to engage also others, because this is a real global agreement that we are trying to build. And it will be a very important signal for the world community if we show that it is possible to have a global approach to trade and development.

Another global issue, but where United States and Europe have a very good—and we hope to improve relation and dialog—is precisely energy and climate. When we speak about climate change, it's not just about the environment—of course environment is crucially important—but it is also about global security. It's also about economic development and sustainability.

And so we are hoping to deepen our dialog on climate change, on technologies, on curbing emissions, on progress in terms of energy efficiency and in security. Of course, the key

is diversification—diversification in all aspects, and we believe the work going on between our respective experts is a good signal of the commitment of our joint commitment to fight climate change, and also to have a more common approach to the problems of global security regarding energy.

We will, of course, consider other issues in the working lunch we're going to have. President Bush spoke about Darfur. I've been in Darfur recently. I can tell that's really a tragedy, what's going on, and we cannot accept that tragedy going on without a firm, united response of the international community.

So, once again, it was a pleasure meeting President Bush in the White House. I'm very much looking forward to other occasions where we can show to the world that this relation—the relation between Europe and the United States of America is, indeed, more important than ever.

President Bush. Thanks, Jose. Thank you. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:09 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Members of Congress on the Fifth Anniversary of the No Child Left Behind Act

January 8, 2007

Laura and I want to thank Senator Kennedy and Congressman George Miller and Congressman McKeon and Senator Enzi for joining us as we celebrate the fifth anniversary of No Child Left Behind and discuss our strategy to reauthorize this important piece of legislation.

I want to thank the Members for joining us. I am proud of this piece of legislation. I think it's made an enormous difference, particularly in the lives of some of our poorer students. This country needs to get it right when it comes to public education, and the bill that I was honored to sign is an important first step toward making sure every child gets a good education in America.

And in our discussions today, we've all agreed to work together to address some of the major concerns that some people have on this piece of legislation, without weakening the essence of the bill, and get a piece of legislation done. And we showed in the past that we can work together to get positive results, and I'm confident we can do so again.

Again, I appreciate the wisdom and the vision of the Members who are here. I thank you for your steadfast and strong support for our public schools and the children in our public schools, and I'm looking forward to working with you to reauthorize No Child Left Behind.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:56 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Appointment of Fred F. Fielding as Counsel to the President

January 9, 2007

I have selected Fred Fielding to serve as Counsel to the President. Fred's exemplary legal career has equipped him with the judgment and expertise necessary to serve in this important position. Fred's distinguished record of public service, including 5 years as President Reagan's Counsel, makes him uniquely qualified for this position. He served with distinction on the 9/11 Commission, is a senior partner at a leading law firm, and he has earned a strong reputation for integrity. Fred is one of the most well-respected and accomplished lawyers in our Nation, and I look forward to benefiting from his wise counsel. I am pleased that he will once again take up public service in the White House.

Fred is replacing my long-time advisor and good friend, Harriet Miers. Harriet has served as a key member of my team for the last 6 years as Counsel, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Staff Secretary. I have greatly valued her sound judgment. Throughout her career, she has devoted herself to the rule of

law and the cause of justice, earning a reputation as a talented lawyer dedicated to excellence. Harriet possesses a tireless work ethic and a strong commitment to serving others. Laura and I are deeply grateful for Harriet's dedication and for her friendship. We wish her the very best in the next chapter of her life.

Memorandum on Modification of the June 12, 1998, Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition

January 9, 2007

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Modification of the June 12, 1998, Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition

Under the authority vested in me as President of the United States, including section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1341(a), I hereby modify the first sentence of the withdrawal of June 12, 1998, of certain areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from leasing disposition to read as follows:

Under the authority granted in section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1341(a), I hereby withdraw from disposition by leasing through June 30, 2012, (1) those areas under moratoria pursuant to sections 104 and 106 of Public Law 109–54, and (2) those areas under moratoria pursuant to section 105 of Public Law 109–54, excluding that portion of the Central Gulf of Mexico planning area defined as the “181 South Area” in section 102(2) of title I (“Gulf of Mexico Energy Security”) in Division C of Public Law 109–432, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

George W. Bush

Address to the Nation on the War on Terror in Iraq

January 10, 2007

Good evening. Tonight in Iraq, the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in a struggle that will determine the direction of the global war on terror and our safety here at home. The new strategy I outline tonight will change America's course in Iraq and help us succeed in the fight against terror.

When I addressed you just over a year ago, nearly 12 million Iraqis had cast their ballots for a unified and democratic nation. The elections of 2005 were a stunning achievement. We thought that these elections would bring the Iraqis together and that as we trained Iraqi security forces, we could accomplish our mission with fewer American troops.

But in 2006, the opposite happened. The violence in Iraq, particularly in Baghdad, overwhelmed the political gains the Iraqis had made. Al Qaida terrorists and Sunni insurgents recognized the mortal danger that Iraq's elections posed for their cause, and they responded with outrageous acts of murder aimed at innocent Iraqis. They blew up one of the holiest shrines in Shi'a Islam, the Golden Mosque of Samarra, in a calculated effort to provoke Iraq's Shi'a population to retaliate. Their strategy worked. Radical Shi'a elements, some supported by Iran, formed death squads. And the result was a vicious cycle of sectarian violence that continues today.

The situation in Iraq is unacceptable to the American people, and it is unacceptable to me. Our troops in Iraq have fought bravely. They have done everything we have asked them to do. Where mistakes have been made, the responsibility rests with me.

It is clear that we need to change our strategy in Iraq. So my national security team, military commanders, and diplomats conducted a comprehensive review. We consulted Members of Congress from both parties, our allies abroad, and distinguished outside experts. We benefited from the thoughtful recommendations of the Iraq Study

Group, a bipartisan panel led by former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. In our discussions, we all agreed that there is no magic formula for success in Iraq. And one message came through loud and clear: Failure in Iraq would be a disaster for the United States.

The consequences of failure are clear. Radical Islamic extremists would grow in strength and gain new recruits. They would be in a better position to topple moderate governments, create chaos in the region, and use oil revenues to fund their ambitions. Iran would be emboldened in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our enemies would have a safe haven from which to plan and launch attacks on the American people. On September the 11th, 2001, we saw what a refuge for extremists on the other side of the world could bring to the streets of our own cities. For the safety of our people, America must succeed in Iraq.

The most urgent priority for success in Iraq is security, especially in Baghdad. Eighty percent of Iraq's sectarian violence occurs within 30 miles of the capital. This violence is splitting Baghdad into sectarian enclaves and shaking the confidence of all Iraqis. Only Iraqis can end the sectarian violence and secure their people, and their Government has put forward an aggressive plan to do it.

Our past efforts to secure Baghdad failed for two principal reasons: There were not enough Iraqi and American troops to secure neighborhoods that had been cleared of terrorists and insurgents, and there were too many restrictions on the troops we did have. Our military commanders reviewed the new Iraqi plan to ensure that it addressed these mistakes. They report that it does. They also report that this plan can work.

Now let me explain the main elements of this effort. The Iraqi Government will appoint a military commander and two deputy commanders for their capital. The Iraqi Government will deploy Iraqi Army and National Police brigades across Baghdad's nine districts. When these forces are fully deployed, there will be 18 Iraqi Army and National Police brigades committed to this effort, along with local police. These Iraqi forces will operate from local police stations, conducting patrols and setting up checkpoints and going

door to door to gain the trust of Baghdad residents.

This is a strong commitment, but for it to succeed, our commanders say the Iraqis will need our help. So America will change our strategy to help the Iraqis carry out their campaign to put down sectarian violence and bring security to the people of Baghdad. This will require increasing American force levels. So I've committed more than 20,000 additional American troops to Iraq. The vast majority of them—five brigades—will be deployed to Baghdad. These troops will work alongside Iraqi units and be embedded in their formations. Our troops will have a well-defined mission: to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods; to help them protect the local population; and to help ensure that the Iraqi forces left behind are capable of providing the security that Baghdad needs.

Many listening tonight will ask why this effort will succeed when previous operations to secure Baghdad did not. Well, here are the differences. In earlier operations, Iraqi and American forces cleared many neighborhoods of terrorists and insurgents, but when our forces moved on to other targets, the killers returned. This time, we'll have the force levels we need to hold the areas that have been cleared. In earlier operations, political and sectarian interference prevented Iraqi and American forces from going into neighborhoods that are home to those fueling the sectarian violence. This time, Iraqi and American forces will have a green light to enter those neighborhoods, and Prime Minister Maliki has pledged that political or sectarian interference will not be tolerated.

I have made it clear to the Prime Minister and Iraq's other leaders that America's commitment is not open-ended. If the Iraqi Government does not follow through on its promises, it will lose the support of the American people and it will lose the support of the Iraqi people. Now is the time to act. The Prime Minister understands this. Here is what he told his people just last week: "The Baghdad security plan will not provide a safe haven for any outlaws, regardless of their sectarian or political affiliation."

This new strategy will not yield an immediate end to suicide bombings, assassinations, or IED attacks. Our enemies in Iraq will

make every effort to ensure that our television screens are filled with images of death and suffering. Yet over time, we can expect to see Iraqi troops chasing down murderers, fewer brazen acts of terror, and growing trust and cooperation from Baghdad's residents. When this happens, daily life will improve, Iraqis will gain confidence in their leaders, and the Government will have the breathing space it needs to make progress in other critical areas. Most of Iraq's Sunni and Shi'a want to live together in peace, and reducing the violence in Baghdad will help make reconciliation possible.

A successful strategy for Iraq goes beyond military operations. Ordinary Iraqi citizens must see that military operations are accompanied by visible improvements in their neighborhoods and communities. So America will hold the Iraqi Government to the benchmarks it has announced.

To establish its authority, the Iraqi Government plans to take responsibility for security in all of Iraq's Provinces by November. To give every Iraqi citizen a stake in the country's economy, Iraq will pass legislation to share oil revenues among all Iraqis. To show that it is committed to delivering a better life, the Iraqi Government will spend \$10 billion of its own money on reconstruction and infrastructure projects that will create new jobs. To empower local leaders, Iraqis plan to hold provincial elections later this year. And to allow more Iraqis to reenter their nation's political life, the Government will reform de-Ba'athification laws and establish a fair process for considering amendments to Iraq's Constitution.

America will change our approach to help the Iraqi Government as it works to meet these benchmarks. In keeping with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, we will increase the embedding of American advisers in Iraqi Army units and partner a coalition brigade with every Iraqi Army division. We will help the Iraqis build a larger and better equipped army, and we will accelerate the training of Iraqi forces, which remains the essential U.S. security mission in Iraq. We will give our commanders and civilians greater flexibility to spend funds for economic assistance. We will double the number of Provincial Reconstruction Teams. These

teams bring together military and civilian experts to help local Iraqi communities pursue reconciliation, strengthen the moderates, and speed the transition to Iraqi self-reliance. And Secretary Rice will soon appoint a reconstruction coordinator in Baghdad to ensure better results for economic assistance being spent in Iraq.

As we make these changes, we will continue to pursue Al Qaida and foreign fighters. Al Qaida is still active in Iraq. Its home base is Anbar Province. Al Qaida has helped make Anbar the most violent area of Iraq outside the capital. A captured Al Qaida document describes the terrorists' plan to infiltrate and seize control of the Province. This would bring Al Qaida closer to its goals of taking down Iraq's democracy, building a radical Islamic empire, and launching new attacks on the United States, at home and abroad.

Our military forces in Anbar are killing and capturing Al Qaida leaders, and they are protecting the local population. Recently, local tribal leaders have begun to show their willingness to take on Al Qaida. And as a result, our commanders believe we have an opportunity to deal a serious blow to the terrorists. So I have given orders to increase American forces in Anbar Province by 4,000 troops. These troops will work with Iraqi and tribal forces to keep up the pressure on the terrorists. America's men and women in uniform took away Al Qaida's safe haven in Afghanistan, and we will not allow them to reestablish it in Iraq.

Succeeding in Iraq also requires defending its territorial integrity and stabilizing the region in the face of extremist challenges. This begins with addressing Iran and Syria. These two regimes are allowing terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq. Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our forces. We'll interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria, and we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq.

We're also taking other steps to bolster the security of Iraq and protect American interests in the Middle East. I recently ordered the deployment of an additional carrier strike

group to the region. We will expand intelligence sharing and deploy Patriot air defense systems to reassure our friends and allies. We will work with the Governments of Turkey and Iraq to help them resolve problems along their border. And we will work with others to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons and dominating the region.

We will use America's full diplomatic resources to rally support for Iraq from nations throughout the Middle East. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and the Gulf States need to understand that an American defeat in Iraq would create a new sanctuary for extremists and a strategic threat to their survival. These nations have a stake in a successful Iraq that is at peace with its neighbors, and they must step up their support for Iraq's unity Government. We endorse the Iraqi Government's call to finalize an international compact that will bring new economic assistance in exchange for greater economic reform. And on Friday, Secretary Rice will leave for the region to build support for Iraq and continue the urgent diplomacy required to help bring peace to the Middle East.

The challenge playing out across the broader Middle East is more than a military conflict. It is the decisive ideological struggle of our time. On one side are those who believe in freedom and moderation; on the other side are extremists who kill the innocent and have declared their intention to destroy our way of life. In the long run, the most realistic way to protect the American people is to provide a hopeful alternative to the hateful ideology of the enemy by advancing liberty across a troubled region. It is in the interests of the United States to stand with the brave men and women who are risking their lives to claim their freedom and to help them as they work to raise up just and hopeful societies across the Middle East.

From Afghanistan to Lebanon to the Palestinian Territories, millions of ordinary people are sick of the violence and want a future of peace and opportunity for their children. And they are looking at Iraq. They want to know: Will America withdraw and yield the future of that country to the extremists, or will we stand with the Iraqis who have made the choice for freedom?

The changes I have outlined tonight are aimed at ensuring the survival of a young democracy that is fighting for its life in a part of the world of enormous importance to American security. Let me be clear: The terrorists and insurgents in Iraq are without conscience, and they will make the year ahead bloody and violent. Even if our new strategy works exactly as planned, deadly acts of violence will continue, and we must expect more Iraqi and American casualties. The question is whether our new strategy will bring us closer to success. I believe that it will.

Victory will not look like the ones our fathers and grandfathers achieved. There will be no surrender ceremony on the deck of a battleship. But victory in Iraq will bring something new in the Arab world—a functioning democracy that polices its territory, upholds the rule of law, respects fundamental human liberties, and answers to its people. A democratic Iraq will not be perfect, but it will be a country that fights terrorists instead of harboring them, and it will help bring a future of peace and security for our children and our grandchildren.

This new approach comes after consultations with Congress about the different courses we could take in Iraq. Many are concerned that the Iraqis are becoming too dependent on the United States, and therefore, our policy should focus on protecting Iraq's borders and hunting down Al Qaida. Their solution is to scale back America's efforts in Baghdad or announce the phased withdrawal of our combat forces. We carefully considered these proposals, and we concluded that to step back now would force a collapse of the Iraqi Government, tear the country apart, and result in mass killings on an unimaginable scale. Such a scenario would result in our troops being forced to stay in Iraq even longer and confront an enemy that is even more lethal. If we increase our support at this crucial moment and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our troops begin coming home.

In the days ahead, my national security team will fully brief Congress on our new strategy. If Members have improvements

that can be made, we will make them. If circumstances change, we will adjust. Honorable people have different views, and they will voice their criticisms. It is fair to hold our views up to scrutiny. And all involved have a responsibility to explain how the path they propose would be more likely to succeed.

Acting on the good advice of Senator Joe Lieberman and other key Members of Congress, we will form a new, bipartisan working group that will help us come together across party lines to win the war on terror. This group will meet regularly with me and my administration; it will help strengthen our relationship with Congress. We can begin by working together to increase the size of the active Army and Marine Corps, so that America has the Armed Forces we need for the 21st century. We also need to examine ways to mobilize talented American civilians to deploy overseas, where they can help build democratic institutions in communities and nations recovering from war and tyranny.

In these dangerous times, the United States is blessed to have extraordinary and selfless men and women willing to step forward and defend us. These young Americans understand that our cause in Iraq is noble and necessary and that the advance of freedom is the calling of our time. They serve far from their families, who make the quiet sacrifices of lonely holidays and empty chairs at the dinner table. They have watched their comrades give their lives to ensure our liberty. We mourn the loss of every fallen American, and we owe it to them to build a future worthy of their sacrifice.

Fellow citizens, the year ahead will demand more patience, sacrifice, and resolve. It can be tempting to think that America can put aside the burdens of freedom. Yet times of testing reveal the character of a nation, and throughout our history, Americans have always defied the pessimists and seen our faith in freedom redeemed. Now America is engaged in a new struggle that will set the course for a new century. We can and we will prevail.

We go forward with trust that the Author of Liberty will guide us through these trying hours. Thank you and good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:01 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his address, he referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Request for Funding for the Department of Homeland Security
January 10, 2007

Dear Madam Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request for the Department of Homeland Security. The request is needed to liquidate prior-year obligations for contracts and grants made by the Transportation Security Administration. The request is fully offset by transferring unobligated balances and would not increase spending or the deficit.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 11.

Remarks on Presenting Posthumously the Congressional Medal of Honor to Corporal Jason Dunham
January 11, 2007

Welcome to the White House. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor a President can bestow. The medal is given for gallantry in the face of an enemy attack that is above and beyond the call of duty. The medal is part of a cherished American tradition that began in this house with the signature of President Abraham Lincoln.

Since World War II, more than half of those who have been awarded the Medal of Honor have lost their lives in the action that earned it. Corporal Jason Dunham belongs to this select group. On a dusty road in western Iraq, Corporal Dunham gave his own life so that the men under his command might

live. This morning it's my privilege to recognize Corporal Dunham's devotion to the Corps and country and to present his family with the Medal of Honor.

I welcome the Vice President's presence; Secretary of Defense Bob Gates; Senator Ted Stevens; Senator John McCain; Senator Craig Thomas—I don't know if you say former marine or marine—marine; Congressman Bill Young and his wife, Beverly; Congressman Duncan Hunter; Congressman John Kline—marine; Congressman Randy Kuhl, Corporal Dunham's family's United States Congressman, is with us; Secretary Don Winter; General Pete Pace; General Jim Conway and Annette; Sergeant Major John Estrada, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

I appreciate the Medal of Honor recipients who have joined us: Barney Barnum, Bob Foley, Bob Howard, Gary Littrell, Al Rascon, Brian Thacker. Thanks for joining us.

I appreciate the Dunham family who have joined us and will soon join me on this platform to receive the honor on behalf of their son: Dan and Deb Dunham; Justin Dunham and Kyle Dunham, brothers; Katie Dunham, sister; and a lot of other family members who have joined us today.

I appreciate the Chaplain for the Navy—excuse me, for the Marine Corps. I didn't mean to insult you. [*Laughter*]

I thank Major Trent Gibson—he was Jason Dunham's commander—company commander; First Lieutenant Brian Robinson, who was his platoon commander. I welcome all the marines from "Kilo-3-7." Thanks for coming, and thanks for serving.

Long before he earned our Nation's highest medal, Jason Dunham made himself—made a name for himself among his friends and neighbors. He was born in a small town in upstate New York. He was a normal kind of fellow. He loved sports. He went to Scio Central School, and he starred on the Tiger basketball, soccer, and baseball teams. And by the way, he still holds the record for the highest batting average in a single season at .414. He was popular with his teammates, and that could be a problem for his mom. You see, she never quite knew how many people would be showing up for dinner,

whether it be her family or the entire basketball team.

He grew up with the riches far more important than money. He had a dad who loved to take his boys on a ride with him when he made his rounds on the dairy farm where he worked. His mom was a school teacher. She figured out the best way to improve her son's spelling was to combine his love for sports with her ability to educate. And so she taught him the words from his reading list when they played the basketball game of "horse." He had two brothers and a sister who adored him.

He had a natural gift for leadership and a compassion that led him to take others under his wing. The Marine Corps took the best of this young man and made it better. As a marine, he was taught that honor, courage, and commitment are not just words; they're core values for a way of life that elevates service above self. As a marine, Jason was taught that leaders put the needs of their men before their own. He was taught that while America's founding truths are self-evident, they also need to be defended by good men and women willing to stand up to determined enemies.

As a leader of a rifle squad in Iraq, Corporal Dunham lived by the values he had been taught. He was a guy everybody looked up to. He was a marine's marine who led by example. He was the kind of person who would stop patrols to play street soccer with the Iraqi schoolchildren. He was the guy who signed on for an extra 2 months in Iraq so he could stay with his squad. As he explained it, he wanted to "make sure that everyone makes it home alive." Corporal Dunham took that promise seriously and would give his own life to make it good.

In April 2004, during an attack near Iraq's Syrian border, Corporal Dunham was assaulted by an insurgent who jumped out of a vehicle that was about to be searched. As Corporal Dunham wrestled the man to the ground, the insurgent rolled out a grenade he had been hiding. Corporal Dunham did not hesitate. He jumped on the grenade, using his helmet and body to absorb the blast. Although he survived the initial explosion, he did not survive his wounds. But by his selflessness, Corporal Dunham saved the

lives of two of his men and showed the world what it means to be a marine.

Deb Dunham calls the Marine Corps her son's second family, and she means that literally. Deb describes her son's relationship to his men this way: "Jay was part guardian angel, part big brother, and all marine." She remembers her son calling from the barracks and then passing the phone to one of his marines, saying, "I've got a guy here who just needs to talk to a mom." Now it's the marines who comfort her. On special days like Christmas or Mother's Day or her birthday, Deb has learned the day will not pass without one of Jason's fellow marines calling to check on her.

With this medal, we pay tribute to the courage and leadership of a man who represents the best of young Americans. With this medal, we ask the God who commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves to wrap His arms around the family of Corporal Jason Dunham, a marine who is not here today because he lived that commandment to the fullest.

I now invite the Dunhams to join me on the stage. And, Colonel, please read the citation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Annette Conway, wife of Gen. James T. Conway, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Rear Adm. Robert F. Burt, USN, Chaplain of the Marine Corps. Following the President's remarks, Lt. Col. Thomas McCarthy, Air Force Aide to the President, read the citation. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks to Military Personnel and Their Families at Fort Benning, Georgia

January 11, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. You call him "General;" I call him "Wojo." [*Laughter*] Thank you for the introduction. I'm proud to be with you. I'm proud to be at Fort Benning, Georgia, home of the Infantry. I'm proud to be with those who have volunteered to serve our country, brave men and

women who understand that the awesome responsibility of Government is to provide security to the American people. I applaud you for your efforts. I'm proud to be your Commander in Chief. And I'm honored to have lunch with you.

I'm only sorry that my wife hasn't joined me. She's the better half of our deal. [*Laughter*] But she sends her love and her respect.

Speaking about families, I have the greatest of respect for not only those of you who wear the uniform but your families as well. I fully understand, in times of danger the military families make a significant sacrifice. And so on behalf of a grateful nation, I say thanks to the families of the soldiers here at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Wojo, I'm glad your wife, Candy, joined us. We both married well. I appreciate traveling here today with the United States Congressman who represents this area, Congressman Sanford Bishop. Thank you for coming, Congressman. And I'm pleased that Congressman Lynn Westmoreland—he is from the district right north of here—has joined us today. Lynn, thank you for being here.

I appreciate the mayor of Columbus, Georgia, Mayor Wetherington. Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here. Thanks for coming. Mayor Hardin, of Phenix City, Alabama, has joined us. Mr. Mayor, appreciate you coming. I know you didn't ask, neither of the mayors asked, but sometimes I like to remind them, just go ahead and fill the potholes. [*Laughter*] I'm not suggesting there are any; it's just my advice.

I appreciate all the officials, local officials who are here. I can't thank the commanders of the base who have arranged this visit—I do want to thank Keith Lovejoy, Colonel Keith Lovejoy, garrison commander of Fort Benning, and his wife, Carol; Sergeant Major Doug Greenway, his wife, JoAnn. You've got a little bit of a following here. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate all the civilian personnel that have joined us to help make this base run. You know, our bases cannot run without the important contributions of civilians, and I appreciate your effort in helping this fine base survive. This is a really important place. This is a place that has a long tradition of turning civilians into highly skilled soldiers. And I

can't thank you enough for the contribution you're making to the security of this country.

There's a lot of history here at Fort Benning, Georgia. A lot of folks have left this base to defend freedom and pass the peace. And I appreciate the fact—and I know you do as well—that you're part of a long tradition of people who have made incredibly important sacrifices so that hundreds of millions of people would enjoy the blessings of liberty and freedom and the world will be more peaceful. And that's what we're here to celebrate today.

On September the 11th, our Nation saw firsthand the destructive vision of a new kind of enemy, and once again the men and women of Fort Benning answered the call to protect our country from that enemy. You know, I knew that right after the attacks, the American psyche being what it is, people would tend to forget the grave threat posed by these people. I knew that. As a matter of fact, I was hoping that would happen so that life would go on. But the fortunate thing for this country is that those who wear the uniform have never forgotten the threat. You understand the stakes.

You know, the Rangers from the 3d Battalion of the 75th Regiment led the way when it came to upholding doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're equally as guilty as the terrorists," and helped liberate Afghanistan. The first fight of this new war was in that faraway place. Soldiers from Fort Benning led the way.

The 3d Brigade Combat Team of the 3d Infantry Division took up the sledgehammer to help liberate Baghdad. One soldier from Fort Benning, Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith of the 3d Infantry Division, went into Iraq. He was there when they surprised about 100 of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard. They were attacked, and Sergeant Smith manned a 50-caliber machine gun atop a damaged armored vehicle to protect his men. He continued to fire from an exposed position. He took a fatal round. He saved more than 100 lives of American soldiers. He received the Medal of Honor.

This is the kind of remarkable courage found throughout the men and women on this base. Troops from Fort Benning are now serving in Iraq right now, helping to protect

the troops and the Iraqi citizens, training Iraqi security forces.

You're doing something else remarkable. You're rebuilding schools and helping improve lives. Everywhere that warriors from this base serve, you leave your mark, and I believe it will be a legacy of hope and freedom and peace.

Last night I talked about a new strategy for Iraq, and I want to share some thoughts with you about that. You know, in 2005, I was able to report to the country that nearly 12 million Iraqis had cast their ballots in a remarkable election. I hope you still remember the moments when people were proudly able to wave their fingers saying, "We have shed ourselves from a tyrant," and, "We're able to express our individual wills about the future of our country." I believe that 2005 would have been a—we would have completed a lot of the mission and that would have been training the Iraqis so they would be in the lead, that they would be in a position to uphold the wishes of the 12 million people that voted.

In spite of the remarkable progress, 2006 turned out differently than I had anticipated. And it did because there's an enemy there that recognizes that the advance of freedom is in contrast to their hopes and their dreams. They can't stand the thought of a free society. Al Qaida and foreigners and radicals took action trying to spur sectarian violence. They bombed holy—important holy site. They killed innocent people, and they were effective at spawning sectarian violence.

The situation in Iraq is difficult, no question about it. It's a difficult time in Iraq because the sectarian violence needs to be challenged and stopped in order for this young society to advance. Yet it's important for our fellow citizens to understand that failure in Iraq would be a disaster for our future. And here's why. One of the wisest comments I've heard about this battle in Iraq was made by General John Abizaid—smart guy, a great soldier. He told me—he said, "Mr. President, if we were to fail in Iraq, the enemy would follow us here to America."

It's a different kind of war in which failure in one part of the world could lead to disaster here at home. It's important for our citizens to understand that as tempting as it might

be—to understand the consequences of leaving before the job is done. Radical Islamic extremists would grow in strength. They would be emboldened. It would make it easier to recruit for their cause. They would be in a position to do that which they have said they want to do, which is to topple moderate governments, to spread their radical vision across an important region of the world.

Imagine what would happen if these extremists who hate America and our way of life gained control of energy reserves. You can bet they would use those reserves to blackmail economies in order to achieve their objective. If we were to leave before the job is done, if we were to fail in Iraq, Iran would be emboldened in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our enemies would have safe havens from which to launch attacks. People would look back at this moment in history and say, “What happened to them in America? How come they couldn’t see the threats to a future generation?” That is why we must and we will succeed in Iraq.

The most urgent priority for success in Iraq is security, especially in Baghdad. Only the Iraqis can end sectarian violence. That’s their job. The Iraqis must secure their people. The Government recognizes they’ve got to do so, and they’ve put forth a plan. I received their plan, their version of the plan when I was in Jordan. The Prime Minister came and said, “Look, I understand we’ve got to do something about this violence, and here is what I suggest we do.” Our commanders looked at it, helped fine-tune it so it would work.

The plan basically calls for the Government to appoint a military commander for Baghdad, which they have done. And they’ve got the city divided into 9 divisions in which there will be 18 Iraqi Army and National Police brigades operating out of local police stations to set up checkpoints, to knock on doors and take a census, to let them know that there is an Army presence in the neighborhood to protect them.

The commanders on the ground there in Iraq, people who I listen to—by the way, that’s what you want your Commander in Chief to do. You don’t want decisions being made based upon politics or focus groups or political polls. You want your military deci-

sions being made by military experts. And they analyzed the plan, and they said to me and to the Iraqi Government, “This won’t work unless we help them. There needs to be a bigger presence.”

And there needs to be a bigger presence because, in the past, we would go in with Iraqis and clear a neighborhood of extremists and terrorists, and then there wouldn’t be enough troops to hold the neighborhood. So our kids would do a lot of hard work, and insurgents and terrorists and killers would generally not want to engage our troops—probably a pretty smart decision on their part. But when they did, they would find justice, and then we’d go on to another assignment, and they’d come back in the neighborhood. And it’s frustrating to our troops; it’s equally frustrating to the Iraqi citizens who want to live in peace. That’s what they want. They want to be able to have a peaceful life.

And so our commanders looked at the plan and said, “Mr. President, it’s not going to work until—unless we support—provide more troops.” And so last night I told the country that I’ve committed an additional—a little over 20,000 more troops, 5 brigades of which will be in Baghdad. They’re going to work alongside the Iraqi units. They will be embedded in Iraqi units. They will help the Iraqis take the lead in securing the neighborhoods.

They’re going to have a well-defined mission. You hear people say, “There must be a clear military mission.” That’s what the military people have said to me. The mission is to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods, to help Iraqis protect the local population, and to ensure that the Iraqi forces that are left behind will be capable of providing the security necessary in the capital city of Iraq. That’s the mission.

I asked General Casey, “Can we accomplish that mission?” He said, “You bet we can accomplish that mission.” It’s got enough troops to accomplish the mission. But one other thing must happen—that our troops and Iraqi troops must have proper rules of engagement. In other words, there can’t be politics interfering with the action of our troops. The American people say, “You tried it before,” and we did. And they say, “What went wrong? What’s different?”

Well, what's new about this plan is there will be enough troops to clear, build, and hold and that our troops will be able to move alongside the Iraqis without political interference, and that's very important. It's important for our troops to hear, and it's important for the American people to know, this is new. This is something different that enables the military folks to predict that we will succeed in helping quell sectarian violence in Baghdad.

The other thing that's going to have to happen is that the Government of Iraq must exhibit the will necessary to succeed. It's one thing to develop a plan; it's another thing to see it through. The Prime Minister and I have had some plain talking. I have made it clear that the patience of the American people is not unlimited, and now is the time to act. It's time to act not only for our sake; it's time to act for the sake of people in Iraq. Shi'a and Sunni mothers want their children to grow up in peace.

The Prime Minister has pledged that political or sectarian interference will not be tolerated. He has said this publicly. The new strategy is not going to yield immediate results. It's going to take awhile. The American people have got to understand that suicide bombings won't stop immediately. The IED attacks won't stop immediately.

Yet over time, we can expect to see positive results, and that would be the Iraqis chasing down the murderers, that there will be fewer brazen acts of terror inside of Baghdad, that there will be growing trust between the different neighborhoods. In other words, you'll begin to see a society that is somewhat more peaceful. Daily life will improve. The Iraqis will gain confidence in their leaders, and the Government will have the breathing space necessary to be able to do other things, to do the politics necessary, to reconcile, to pass an oil law, to allow there to be provincial elections, to make sure that de-Ba'athification rules are altered, to say to people, "This society is a unified society." In other words, to listen to the will of the 12 million people that voted.

We—it's interesting—you know, I mentioned that the Prime Minister and the Government have got to step up and lead. I was heartened by the resolve that I've seen in

the last couple of days, the resolve of the Government and the resolve of the Iraqi troops. They fought bravely beside U.S. forces in Baghdad to rout out insurgents and terrorists along Haifa Street. I don't know if you followed that battle, but it was a tough battle, with the Iraqis in the lead and our folks helping them.

Yesterday, the resolve was seen when Prime Minister Maliki made it clear that illegal militias, including the Mahdi army, have a choice to make: Either lay down your arms, or face justice. That's the kind of leadership that the Iraqi people expect, and that's the kind of leadership I expect and the American people expect. Our support is not open-ended. If the Iraqis demonstrate a willingness to fight for a better future, we'll help them. It's in our interests that we do so. Not only do we expect to see action militarily, as I mentioned, we expect to see them fulfill the benchmarks that they laid out for their people.

We're going to help them. I was telling the general we'll double the number of Provincial Reconstruction Teams; our commanders and civilians will have greater flexibility to spend money on the ground. For those of you who have been there, it's called CERP money. You know, it's an effective tool to help part of the "build" part of clear, build, and hold. But their Government has got to come in behind us.

I was pleased to see that the Iraqi Government pledged \$10 billion of their own money to help this Government show the people that beyond just security there needs to be an improvement in life, that people have got to have—see a better life in order for this Government to work.

Last night I also talked about Anbar Province. It's important for the American people to understand, Al Qaida still is in Iraq. As a matter of fact, they made it clear their ambitions in Iraq. These are the same folks that came and killed about 3,000 of our citizens. Their goal in Iraq is to topple the Government, topple democracy.

See, their vision of life, their ideology can't stand the thought of free societies in their midst. They're totalitarians. You do it this way or else, is their attitude about government. They don't believe in freedoms, like

freedom to worship. I frankly—well, speaking about religion, these are murderers. They use murder as a tool to achieve their objective. Religious people don't murder. They may claim they're religious, but when you kill an innocent woman or a child to create a political end, that's not my view of religion. And yet, there are a lot of peaceful, religious people in the Middle East.

These people need to be stopped. They can't stand the thought of the Iraqis being able to worship freely. They want safe haven, and they've chosen Anbar as their place to achieve safe haven.

We've got a lot of really fine troops fighting Al Qaida, and we're making progress. There's a lot of pressure on them in Anbar. Interestingly enough, a lot of sheiks have decided to join in the fight against Al Qaida. They're tired of foreigners and killers in their midst. That's what the commanders have told me. And they believe we have a good opportunity to really crush this group of folks. And that's why I've committed 4,000 additional troops into Anbar, as well as the troops into Baghdad.

The purpose really is to crush these insurrections now, so that the—democracy in Iraq can develop, has a chance to make it. That's why I made the decision I made. I understand the consequences of failure; they're not acceptable. And so I thought long and hard how best to succeed. That's what I'm interested in, is success. The American people are interested in success. And I laid out a plan that is our best chance for success.

It's also important for our citizens to understand that Iraq must be viewed in the larger context of the Middle East. It's important for Iran and Syria to understand that we will disrupt their attacks on our forces, that we will interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. We'll seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq.

Iran's desire to have a nuclear weapon has caught the attention of the world. It is a very dangerous—that would be a dangerous situation if the Iranians were able to achieve a nuclear weapon. We will continue to pressure Iran, and call upon the world to do so, to end its nuclear weapons ambitions.

I made a statement last night that I had ordered the deployment of an additional carrier strike group to the region. I also talked about Patriot missile systems in the region, to help others deal with the external threats. We will use our full diplomatic resources throughout the Middle East.

It's very important for people to understand—put this situation in Iraq in a larger context, and that is the ideological war that we're seeing. I talked to you about the consequences of failure. The best way to defeat the totalitarian of hate is with an ideology of hope—an ideology of hate, excuse me, with an ideology of hope. It matters whether or not people are resentful in the Middle East. It matters if people are hateful and look to strike out at a convenient target in the Middle East. Our security depends on there to be a alternative to the ideology of hate. Because if there's resentment and hate, it's easier to recruit 19 kids to get on an airplane and kill 3,000 people.

And therefore, in the long run, your children and grandchildren are more likely to live in peace with the advent of liberty. And I'm confident that there are millions of people who are desirous to live in a free society, regardless of their religion, because I believe in the universality of freedom. I believe there's an Almighty, and I believe a gift of the Almighty to every soul is the desire to be free. That's what I believe, and so it did not surprise me when people defied car bombers and killers to vote, to send a signal, "I want to be free."

And the task, immediate task of America, and the long-range goal of this country must be to help those who desire to live in free societies to do so, for the sake of peace for our own children. And that's the call. And it's going to require sacrifice, and I appreciate the sacrifices our troops are willing to make. Some units are going to have to deploy earlier than scheduled as a result of the decision I made. Some will remain deployed longer than originally anticipated. I will work with you and the Congress to provide all the resources you need in this war on terror, and that means good equipment and training, good housing. I understand full well, if you're family is happy, you're happy. The same thing in my house, by the way. *[Laughter]*

I believe it's important to increase the end strength of the United States Army so it can remain engaged—[*applause*]. If this is a long struggle, now is the time to prepare this country and our military for this long struggle. It's important for our citizens to understand that the terrorists and extremists are as brutal an enemy as this country has ever faced. There are no rules of warfare. They don't—they will kill you in a minute in order to achieve an objective. And I know we're going to face difficulties as we take on this important duty and task, and so do you.

You know firsthand that—what it means to lose a comrade. My view is that it is important for us to succeed so that comrade would not have died in vain. It's important to leave behind a better world, as the sacrifices that all have made.

There is no doubt in my mind, we will prevail. It will require patience and determination. It will require our military to do what you have done every time this Government has asked of you. It will require the full resolve of not only this Government but future Governments that will be following this one. Every time this country has been tested, we've responded. As I said last night, we have defied the pessimists, and we will do so again in this first battle of the 21st century.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in Freedom Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, USA, commanding general, Fort Benning, who introduced the President; Mayor William J. Wetherington of Columbus, GA; Mayor Jeff Hardin of Phenix City, AL; Sgt. Maj. Douglas Greenway, USA, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Infantry Center; Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; and Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Proclamation 8099—Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2007

January 11, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, Americans honor the memory of a man who stirred the conscience of a Nation. We also recommit ourselves to the dream to which Dr. King devoted his life—an America where the dignity of every person is respected; where people are judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character; and where the hope of a better tomorrow is in every neighborhood.

When Martin Luther King, Jr., came to our Nation's Capital in the summer of 1963, he came to inspire America and to call on our citizens to live up to the principles of our founding. His dream spread a message of hope, justice, and brotherhood that took hold in the hearts of men and women across our great land, and it continues to speak to millions here at home and around the world.

We honor Martin Luther King, Jr., and remember his strength of character and his leadership. We also remember the work that still remains. America has come a long way since Dr. King's time, yet our journey to justice is not complete. There is still a need for all Americans to hear the power and hope of Dr. King's enduring words so that we can hasten the day when his dream is made real. Last year, I was proud to sign the "Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006." This Act renewed the 1965 bill that reaffirmed our belief that all men are created equal, broke the segregationist lock on the ballot box, and helped bring an excluded community into the center of American democracy. Our Nation will continue to build on the legal equality championed by Dr. King and all the heroes of the civil rights movement, and we will continue our work to protect the promise of our Declaration and guarantee the rights of every citizen.

As we observe Dr. King's birthday, let us honor his legacy and go forward with confidence as a Nation united, committed to destroying discrimination, and dedicated to extending the full blessings of liberty and opportunity to all Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 15, 2007, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I encourage all Americans to observe this special day with appropriate civic, community, and service programs and activities in honor of Dr. King's life and legacy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:33 a.m., January 12, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 16.

Proclamation 8100—Religious Freedom Day, 2007

January 11, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Religious Freedom Day, we commemorate the passage of the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, authored by Thomas Jefferson, and we celebrate the First Amendment's protection of religious freedom.

Across the centuries, people have come to America seeking to worship the Almighty freely. Today, our citizens profess many different faiths, and we welcome every religion. Yet people in many countries live without the freedom to worship as they choose and some face persecution for their beliefs. My Administration is working with our friends and allies around the globe to advance common values

and spread the blessings of liberty to every corner of the world. Freedom is a gift from the Almighty, written in the heart and soul of every man, woman, and child, and we must continue to promote the importance of religious freedom at home and abroad.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2007, as Religious Freedom Day. I call on all Americans to reflect on the great blessing of religious liberty, endeavor to preserve this freedom for future generations, and commemorate this day with appropriate events and activities in their schools, places of worship, neighborhoods, and homes.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:33 a.m., January 12, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 16.

Statement on Signing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006

January 12, 2007

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5946, the "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006." The Act sets a firm deadline to end overfishing in America; contributes to replenishing America's fish stocks; strengthens enforcement of America's fishing laws; and implements international agreements on fishery management and the protection of polar bears.

The executive branch shall construe provisions of the Act that purport to direct or burden the conduct of negotiations by the executive branch with foreign governments or

international organizations in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, including the authority to determine which officers shall negotiate for the United States with a foreign country, when, in consultation with whom, and toward what objectives, and to supervise the unitary executive branch. Such provisions include subsections 609(c) and 610(b) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, as enacted by section 403 of the Act; section 408 of the Act; and section 505 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as enacted by section 902 of the Act.

Subsection 505(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as enacted by section 902 of the Act, purports to condition the authority granted to the President to make appointments upon prior consideration of recommendations from particular sources and purports to limit the qualifications of the pool of persons from whom the President may select appointees in a manner that rules out a large portion of those persons best qualified by experience and knowledge to fill the positions. Also, provisions of the Act, such as section 303A(c)(6)(D)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as enacted by section 106 of the Act, purport to give significant governmental authority of the United States to individuals who are not appointed in accordance with the Appointments Clause of the Constitution. The executive branch shall construe these provisions in a manner consistent with the Appointments Clause.

The executive branch shall construe section 510 of the Act, relating to notifications regarding certain entry and transit of specified portions of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent permissible, with treaties to which the United States is a party and other international obligations of the United States.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 12, 2007.

NOTE: H.R. 5946, approved January 12, was assigned Public Law No. 109-479.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

On January 5, 2007, the President made additional disaster assistance available to Florida by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for public assistance projects undertaken as a result of Hurricane Wilma.

January 7

The President declared a major disaster in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms on December 19, 2006, through January 1, 2007.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on December 28-31, 2006.

January 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with President Enrique Bolanos and President-elect Jose Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of the European Commission.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to attend the inauguration of Jose Daniel Ortega Saavedra as President of Nicaragua on January 10: Michael O. Leavitt (head of delegation); Paul A. Trivelli; John J. Danilovich; and Thomas A. Shannon, Jr.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to Quito, Ecuador, to attend the inauguration of Rafael

Vicente Correa Delgado as President of Ecuador on January 15; Carlos M. Gutierrez (head of delegation); and Linda Jewell.

The President announced his intention to nominate Zalmay Khalilzad to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States to the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ryan C. Crocker to be Ambassador to Iraq.

The President declared an emergency in Colorado and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow and near record snow on December 18–22, 2006.

The President declared an emergency in Colorado and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow on December 28–31, 2006.

January 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with Republican Members of the House of Representatives.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Herbert Heyman to be a director of the Board of Directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (Securities Industry).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities: Rebecca Turner Gonzales; Adele C. Hall; Barbara Jacobs Mitnick; and Marc I. Stern.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board: Robert H. Bruininks; John S. Butler; Shirley M. Green; and Kathryn Hubbard.

The President announced his intention to designate Richard A. Hertling as Acting Assistant Attorney General (Legislative Affairs).

The President announced his intention to designate Douglas Menarchik as Acting Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (Europe and Eurasia).

January 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate David James Gribbin IV to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Andrea Fisher Newman and Joseph Carter Whitaker as members of the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

January 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Fort Benning, GA, arriving in the afternoon. While en route, aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia.

In the afternoon, at Freedom Hall, the President had lunch with military personnel and their families. Later, at Eubanks Field, he participated in a demonstration of infantry training. He then met with family members of military personnel killed in the war on terror.

Later in the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with Scott Pelley of CBS's "60 Minutes." Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

January 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will meet with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the White House on January 16.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of

the Presidential delegation to attend the inauguration of Marc Ravalomanana as President of Madagascar on January 19: Michael O. Johannis (head of delegation); James D. McGee; Ronald A. Tschetter; and R. Timothy Ziemer.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 9

John Preston Bailey,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, vice Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., retired.

Valerie L. Baker,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, vice Consuelo B. Marshall, retired.

Vanessa Lynne Bryant,
of Connecticut, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Connecticut, vice Dominic J. Squatrito, retired.

Carol A. Dalton,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice A. Noel Anketell Kramer, elevated.

Mary O. Donohue,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, vice Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., retired.

Thomas Alvin Farr,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, vice Malcolm J. Howard, retired.

Nora Barry Fischer,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice Robert J. Cindrich, resigned.

Dabney Langhorne Friedrich,
of Virginia, to be a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 31, 2009, vice Michael O'Neill, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Gregory Kent Frizzell,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, vice Sven E. Holmes, resigned.

Philip S. Gutierrez,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, vice Terry J. Hatter, Jr., retired.

Thomas M. Hardiman,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, vice Richard L. Nygaard, retired.

Marcia Morales Howard,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, vice Harvey E. Schlesinger, retired.

Beryl A. Howell,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011 (reappointment), to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

John Alfred Jarvey,
of Iowa, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, vice Ronald E. Longstaff, retired.

Frederick J. Kapala,
of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Philip G. Reinhard, retiring.

Peter D. Keisler,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, vice John G. Roberts, Jr., elevated.

Sara Elizabeth Lioi,
of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, vice Lesley Brooks Wells, retired.

Debra Ann Livingston,
of New York, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for
the Second Circuit, vice John M. Walker, Jr.,
retired.

Roslynn Renee Mauskopf,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of New York, vice David
G. Trager, retired.

Liam O'Grady,
of Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Eastern District of Virginia, vice Claude M.
Hilton, retired.

Lawrence Joseph O'Neill,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of California, vice Oliver
W. Wanger, retired.

William Lindsay Osteen, Jr.,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge
for the Middle District of North Carolina,
vice William L. Osteen, Sr., retired.

Halil Suleyman Ozerden,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Southern District of Mississippi, vice
David C. Bramlette, retired.

Heidi M. Pasichow,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Asso-
ciate Judge of the Superior Court of the Dis-
trict of Columbia for the term of 15 years,
vice Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, elevated.

Martin Karl Reidinger,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge
for the Western District of North Carolina,
vice Graham C. Mullen, retired.

James Edward Rogan,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California, vice Nora
M. Manella, resigned.

Thomas D. Schroeder,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge
for the Middle District of North Carolina,
vice Frank W. Bullock, Jr., retired.

Benjamin Hale Settle,
of Washington, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Washington, vice
Franklin D. Burgess, retired.

Norman Randy Smith,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the
Ninth Circuit, vice Stephen S. Trott, retired.

John R. Steer,
of Virginia, to be a member of the U.S. Sen-
tencing Commission for a term expiring Oc-
tober 31, 2011 (reappointment), to which po-
sition he was appointed during the last recess
of the Senate.

Lisa Godbey Wood,
of Georgia, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Southern District of Georgia, vice Dudley H.
Bowen, Jr., retired.

Otis D. Wright II,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California, vice Gary
L. Taylor, retired.

George H. Wu,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California, vice Ron-
ald S.W. Lew, retired.

Anthony C. Epstein,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Asso-
ciate Judge of the Superior Court of the Dis-
trict of Columbia for the term of 15 years,
vice Susan Rebecca Holmes, retired.

Leslie Southwick,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for
the Fifth Circuit, vice Charles W. Pickering,
Sr., retired.

Joseph S. Van Bokkelen,
of Indiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Northern District of Indiana, vice Rudy
Lozano, retiring.

Katherine Almquist,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator
of the U.S. Agency for International Devel-
opment, vice Lloyd O. Pierson, resigned.

Carl Joseph Artman,
of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of
the Interior, vice David Wayne Anderson.

Michael J. Astrue,
of Massachusetts, to be Commissioner of So-
cial Security for a term expiring January 19,
2013, vice Jo Anne Barnhart.

Alex A. Beehler,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Nikki Rush Tinsley, resigned.

Warren Bell,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2012, vice Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Wayne Cartwright Beyer,
of New Hampshire, to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years expiring July 1, 2010, vice Othoniel Armendariz, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Andrew G. Biggs,
of New York, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2013, vice James B. Lockhart III.

Anita K. Blair,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Michael L. Dominguez.

Steven G. Bradbury,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Jack Landman Goldsmith III, resigned.

Michael J. Burns,
of New Mexico, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, vice Dale Klein, resigned.

Gregory B. Cade,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security, vice R. David Paulison, resigned.

Curtis S. Chin,
of New York, to be U.S. Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Paul William Speltz.

Peter E. Cianchette,
of Maine, to be a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2010, vice Nancy Killefer, term expired.

John Ray Correll,
of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, vice Jeffrey D. Jarrett.

Paul DeCamp,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, vice Tammy Dee McCutchen, resigned.

Susan E. Dudley,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, vice John D. Graham, resigned.

Michael F. Duffy,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2012 (reappointment).

Sam Fox,
of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belgium.

C. Boyden Gray,
of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Floyd Hall,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Amy M. Rosen, term expired.

Thomas E. Harvey,
of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs), vice Pamela M. Iovino, resigned.

Richard Allan Hill,
of Montana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring June 10, 2009, vice Juanita Sims Doty, term expired.

D. Jeffrey Hirschberg,
of Wisconsin, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2007 (reappointment).

Richard E. Hoagland,
of the District of Columbia, a career member
of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Min-
ister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraor-
dinary and Plenipotentiary of the United
States of America to the Republic of Arme-
nia.

Arlene Holen,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member
of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Re-
view Commission for a term of 6 years expir-
ing August 30, 2010, vice Robert H. Beatty,
Jr., term expired.

Caroline C. Hunter,
of Florida, to be a member of the Election
Assistance Commission for a term expiring
December 12, 2009, vice Paul S.
DeGregorio, term expired.

Scott A. Keller,
of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Housing and Urban Development, vice Ste-
ven B. Nesmith, resigned.

Peter N. Kirsanow,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National
Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years
expiring August 27, 2008, vice Ronald E.
Meisburg.

Kevin M. Kolevar,
of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Energy (Electricity Delivery and Energy Re-
liability), vice John S. Shaw, resigned.

James R. Kunder,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of
the U.S. Agency for International Develop-
ment, vice Frederick W. Schieck.

Robert D. Lenhard,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2011, vice Danny Lee McDonald,
term expired.

Margrethe Lundsager,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Executive Director of
the International Monetary Fund for a term
of 2 years, vice Nancy P. Jacklin, term ex-
pired.

Jane C. Luxton,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Com-
merce for Oceans and Atmosphere, vice
James R. Mahoney.

Roger Romulus Martella, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator
of the Environmental Protection Agency,
vice Ann R. Klee, resigned.

David M. Mason,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2009 (reappointment).

Patricia Mathes,
of Texas, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term expiring November 25, 2007, vice Mark
G. Yudof, resigned.

Andrew J. McKenna, Jr.,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National
Security Education Board for a term of 4
years, vice Robert N. Shamansky, term ex-
pired.

Mark McKinnon,
of Texas, to be a member of the Broadcasting
Board of Governors for a term expiring Au-
gust 13, 2009, vice Fayza Veronique Boulad
Rodman, to which position he was appointed
during the last recess of the Senate.

William W. Mercer,
of Montana, to be Associate Attorney Gen-
eral, vice Robert D. McCallum, Jr.

Daniel Meron,
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the
Department of Health and Human Services,
vice Alex Azar II.

Hector E. Morales,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of
Directors of the Inter-American Foundation
for a term expiring September 20, 2010, vice
Jose A. Fourquet, resigned.

Julie L. Myers,
of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Homeland Security, vice Michael J. Garcia.

James F.X. O’Gara,
of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director for
Supply Reduction, Office of National Drug
Control Policy, vice Barry D. Crane.

David Palmer,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Equal
Employment Opportunity Commission for a
term expiring July 1, 2011, vice Cari M.
Dominguez, term expired.

John L. Palmer,
of New York, to be a member of the Board
of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Sur-
vivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal
Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term
of 4 years (reappointment).

John L. Palmer,
of New York, to be a member of the Board
of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary
Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of
4 years (reappointment).

John L. Palmer,
of New York, to be a member of the Board
of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insur-
ance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years (re-
appointment).

Stanley Davis Phillips,
of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Ex-
traordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United
States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Dean A. Pinkert,
of Virginia, to be a member of the United
States International Trade Commission for
the term expiring December 16, 2015, vice
Jennifer Anne Hillman, term expired.

John A. Rizzo,
of the District of Columbia, to be General
Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency,
vice Scott W. Muller, resigned.

Rosemary E. Rodriguez,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Election
Assistance Commission for the remainder of
the term expiring December 12, 2007, vice
Raymundo Martinez III, resigned.

Ellen R. Sauerbrey,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of
State (Population, Refugees, and Migration),
vice Arthur E. Dewey, resigned.

Thomas R. Saving,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of
Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance
Trust Fund for a term of 4 years (reappoint-
ment).

Thomas R. Saving,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of
Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Sur-
vivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal
Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term
of 4 years (reappointment).

Thomas R. Saving,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of
Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Med-
ical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4
years (reappointment).

Leon R. Sequeira,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Labor, vice Veronica Vargas Stidvent.

Ron Silver,
of New York, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace
for a term expiring January 19, 2009, vice
Stephen D. Krasner, term expired.

Charles Darwin Snelling,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the
Board of Directors of the Metropolitan
Washington Airports Authority for a term ex-
piring May 30, 2012 (reappointment).

Enrique J. Sosa,
of Florida, to be a member of the Reform
Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice
Linwood Holton, term expired.

Richard Stickler,
of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary
of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, vice
David D. Lauriski, resigned.

Michael W. Tankersley,
of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-
Import Bank (new position).

Judy Van Rest,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace
for a term expiring January 19, 2009, vice
Daniel Pipes.

Hans von Spakovsky,
of Georgia, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2011, vice Bradley A. Smith, resigned.

Dennis P. Walsh,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2009 (reappointment).

Steven T. Walther,
of Nevada, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2009, vice Scott E. Thomas, term expired.

William Ludwig Wehrum, Jr.,
of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Jeffrey R. Holmstead, resigned.

Catherine G. West,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2008, vice Karen Hastie Williams, term expired.

Ellen C. Williams,
of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2016 (reappointment).

Irving A. Williamson,
of New York, to be a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission for the term expiring June 16, 2014, vice Stephen Koplan, term expired.

Submitted January 10

P. Robert Fannin,
of Arizona, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

Douglas Menarchik,
of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (reappointment).

William Raymond Steiger,
of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mozambique.

Bradley Udall,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2012 (reappointment).

Howard Charles Weizmann,
of Maryland, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, vice Dan Gregory Blair.

Submitted January 11

David James Gribbin, IV,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, vice Jeffrey A. Rosen.

John Roberts Hackman,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice John Francis Clark.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 6

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Florida

Released January 7

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Nebraska

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kansas

Released January 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statements by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Colorado

Fact sheet: The No Child Left Behind Act: Five Years of Results for America's Children

Released January 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Released January 10

Transcript of a press briefing by senior administration officials on the President's address to the Nation on the war on terror in Iraq

Fact sheet: The New Way Forward in Iraq

Excerpts of the President's address to the Nation on the war on terror in Iraq

Advance text of the President's address to the Nation on the war on terror in Iraq

Released January 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, and General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 486, H.R. 4588, H.R. 6060, and H.R. 6345

Released January 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Instrument of Ratification for the Third Additional Protocol and H.R. 6338

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 482, H.R. 1245, H.R. 4709, H.R. 4997, H.R. 5483, H.R. 5948, and H.R. 6338

Fact sheet: Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved January 11

H.R. 486 / Public Law 109-470
Holloman Air Force Base Land Exchange Act

H.R. 4588 / Public Law 109-471
Water Resources Research Act Amendments of 2006

H.R. 6060 / Public Law 109-472
Department of State Authorities Act of 2006

H.R. 6345 / Public Law 109-473
To make a conforming amendment to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to examinations of certain insured depository institutions, and for other purposes

Approved January 12

H.R. 482 / Public Law 109-474
Pine Springs Land Exchange Act

H.R. 1245 / Public Law 109-475
Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005

H.R. 4709 / Public Law 109-476
Telephone Records and Privacy Protection Act of 2006

H.R. 4997 / Public Law 109-477
Physicians for Underserved Areas Act

H.R. 5483 / Public Law 109-478
Railroad Retirement Disability Earnings Act

H.R. 5946 / Public Law 109-479
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006

H.R. 5948 / Public Law 109-480
Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006

H.R. 6338 / Public Law 109-481
Geneva Distinctive Emblems Protection Act of 2006